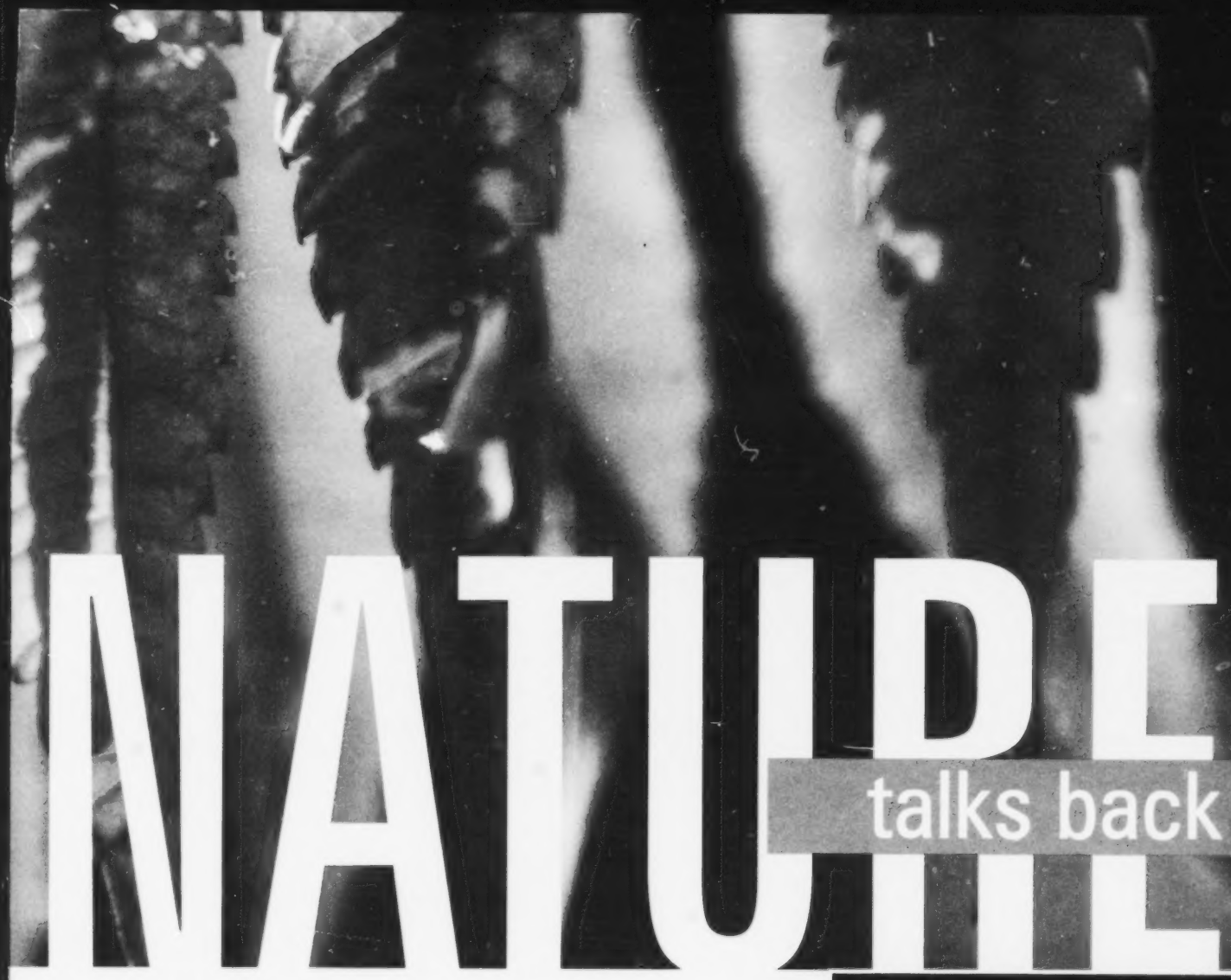

NATURE talks back

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

TORONTO AND REGION Conservation

for The Living City

Member of Conservation Ontario

Our Vision

The quality of life on earth is being created in rapidly expanding city regions. Our vision is for a new kind of community, The Living City, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.

Our Mission

Our mission is to work with our partners to ensure that The Living City is built upon a natural foundation of healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity, and sustainable communities.

TRCA ANNUAL REPORT 2005

106-05209/

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The year 2005 was one marked by natural disasters, reminding us all of the sheer power and importance of our natural environment. The year started with the full awareness from the devastation of the Tsunami, only to be followed by Hurricane Katrina, and in Toronto and Region Conservation's (TRCA) jurisdiction, the August 19th storm. The flooding on August 19th demonstrated the accomplishments made by TRCA and its municipal partners in wise community planning through TRCA's Valley and Stream Corridor Management program over the past 40 years, as damage to the valleylands was manageable and there was no loss of life.

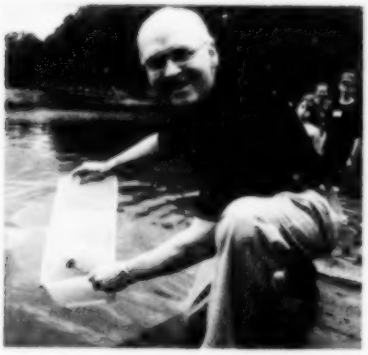
These storm events were only three of many seen worldwide in 2005, reminding us of climate change and its effects on the natural environment. TRCA takes the threat of climate change seriously and advanced many programs with our partners in 2005 aimed at the long-term decline of climate change, including: source water protection; community transformation programs for sustainable development; tree plantings; environmental restoration projects; education and community stewardship; natural heritage system; land acquisition; waterfront development, and many more. TRCA is primed to continue delivering such programs, building on our 50-year history of developing sustainable practices.

Commitment from our partners, including all levels of government, business and the community, made it possible for us to undertake the large array of programs in 2005. Our staff are also dedicated individuals who bring youthful energy, commitment, innovative ideas and problem solving to every program they take on. As chair of TRCA, I am pleased to work with all individuals contributing to TRCA's vision for The Living City, a vision of a healthy, attractive, sustainable urban region extending into the 22nd century.

Dick O'Brien

MESSAGE FROM THE CAO

MESSAGE FROM THE CAO



With the number of radical weather events over the last year, it seemed fitting to have the perils of climate change as a central theme for our 2005 annual report.

In many ways, the climate change issue represents the "common enemy" to which nations and communities around the world must respond. In fact, if Canadian organizations are not able to maintain leading roles in research, as well as system and product innovations to address climate change, we will miss a huge economic opportunity. Surely this will reduce our long-term standard of living.

But it is not all doom and gloom. As you read about our many efforts to slow climate change, we hope you will see that the opportunities are endless and a concerted effort to fight climate change can result in real progress in city building.

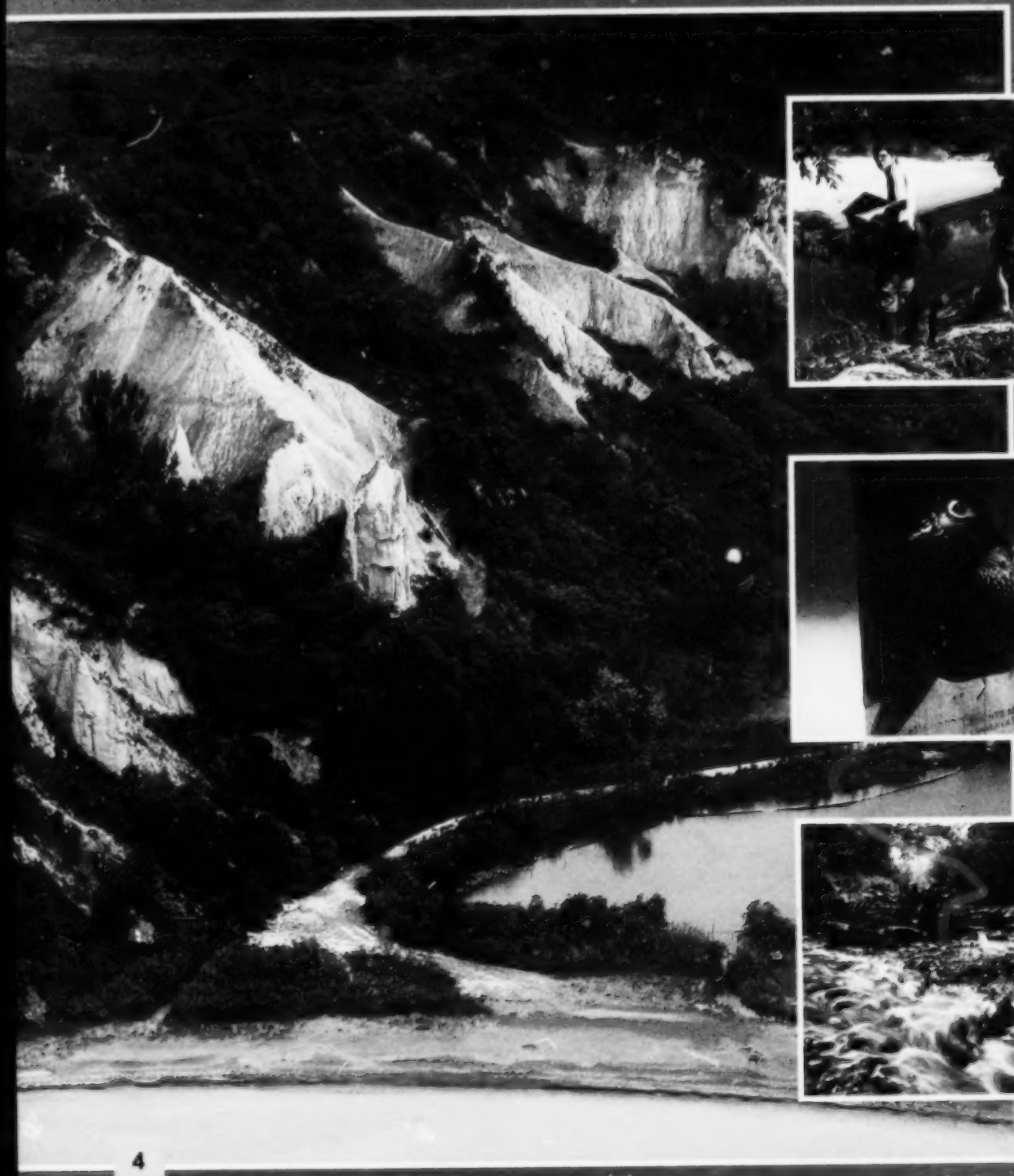
Many international experts position this period of change as equivalent in scale to the "industrial revolution." There are some encouraging signs that the "sustainability revolution" is underway:

- There is a greater understanding of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system for buildings and the desire to apply this approach.
- The pursuit of energy-saving activities in the education, health, retail and municipal sectors through participation in TRCA's living city programs is expanding.
- The provincial leadership to reduce coal-dependant electricity has started to address one of the main contributors to our serious problem of over 44 smog days in 2005.
- Municipal commitment and investment in public transit is encouraging more responsible transportation choices.
- Application of renewable sources of energy such as ground-source heating and cooling is on the rise.

A strong economy, expanding population and the preference for autos over public transit are forces working against a more sustainable future. But if the creative, diverse and caring people of our communities cannot help with an innovative response to climate change, who can?

Brian Denney

Brian Denney



Above: Scarborough Bluffs
Inset photos from top to bottom: TRCA assesses the August 19th storm damage on Highland Creek; wood duck, Milliken Creek.

2005 Highlights

- No lives were lost in the August 19th storm, demonstrating the benefits of TRCA's work in flood protection planning.
- The *Clean Water Act* was introduced by the Province of Ontario, identifying conservation authorities as the coordinators of source protection plans.
- Chinook salmon were found in the upper reaches of the East Don River for the first time in over a century.
- Implementation of the Trans Canada Trail Interim Route was finalized. From the Oak Ridges Moraine to the Lake Ontario waterfront, this trail is 32 kilometres in length.

The lifeblood of our city region

HEALTHY rivers & shorelines

Humber Bay Shores park development and habitat enhancement before (inset) and after.

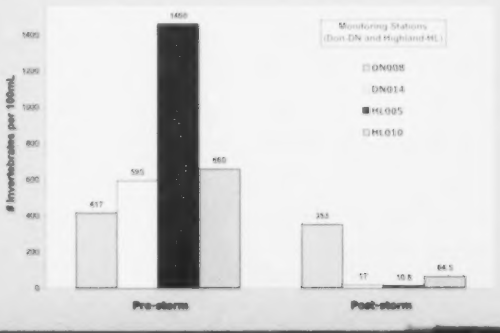
Healthy = Healthy **Communities**

Mother Nature's voice was heard loud and clear in 2005. With such tragedies as the Tsunami, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and many other natural disasters, it seems climate change predictions are increasingly ringing true. Closer to home we also saw the effects of a changing climate when, on August 19th, a major rain storm rattled the centre of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), costing millions of dollars in damage. Several major roadways were closed due to flooding and torrential rains caused a section of Finch Avenue to collapse. The rainfall intensity, up to 120 millimetres of rain falling in just over an hour, was greater than that experienced during Hurricane Hazel. Unlike Hurricane Hazel, there were no casualties, confirming that our work in the area of flood management and watershed planning over the last 50 years has paid off. As radical weather patterns become more unpredictable, support for flood planning, management of flood control structures and channels, and emergency preparedness needs to be top of mind.

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) is building on our expertise in watershed management and land conservation, and moving beyond those traditional mandates to achieve our broad vision for The Living City in the coming decades.

In 2005, we made great strides toward these ambitious goals for a more sustainable future, particularly in protecting and restoring our vital water courses. At the heart of this work is source water protection planning which gained some impressive momentum in 2005 with the first reading of the *Clean Water Act* on December 5th. TRCA developed a preliminary watershed characterization report for our jurisdiction, and the Province of Ontario continued to provide funding of source protection activities including full watershed characterization. As the lead agency within the CTC region (Credit Valley, Toronto and Region and Central Lake Ontario conservation authorities), TRCA is responsible for overall project management of the conservation authorities' source protection activities within the CTC region. In 2006, we will be working more formally with our municipal partners through the establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee to advise us on the watershed characterization and development of future work plans.

This graph shows the effect on the number of organisms that lived on the bed of the river before and after the August 19th storm at a few of TRCA's regional monitoring sites on the Don River and Highland Creek. We found that the physical and biological conditions at these sites had changed. The changes were consistent with expected storm impacts.



From top to bottom: Mouth of Mimico Creek, Port Union Waterfront Improvement project, Peel Children's Water Festival.

Healthy WATERSHEDS = Healthy **Communities**

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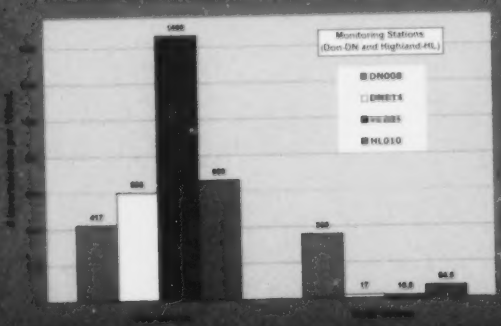

We also made great progress in developing watershed plans and component studies for the Rouge River and Humber River watersheds to meet the requirements of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan's direction to complete all watershed plans by 2007. An update of *Forty Steps to a New Don* is the last of the watershed plans to be initiated and will be progressing through 2006 and 2007.

Caring for our watersheds will help us achieve our goals for a sustainable Toronto region which means greater opportunities for recreation and ultimately a cleaner, greener, healthier place to live.

A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow which drains into a river, lake or other body of water.

Watershed HIGHLIGHTS

Waterfront

- Design plans were developed and approvals initiated to carry out the Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan Implementation project. Activities over the next two years will include the construction of trails, park infrastructure and terrestrial and aquatic habitat enhancements. Federal funding of $8 million will flow through the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC).
- All necessary properties and approvals were received for Phase 1 of the Mimico Waterfront Linear Park project, as funded by the TWRC. Phase 1 will be completed in 2008 and will include a partially sheltered embayment, waterfront trail and cobble beaches.
- Construction continued on Phase 1 of the Port Union Waterfront Improvement project. Phase 1, including two kilometres of waterfront trail is set to open to the public in the fall of 2006.
- The Western Beaches Watercourse Facility construction continued with completion expected in spring 2006.
- The Town of Ajax Waterfront Management Plan 2005 was approved. The organization of the plan supports TRCA's Draft Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy and The Living City objectives.
- We participated in the City of Pickering Framework for a Five-Year Implementation Plan for Pickering Waterfront and Frenchman's Bay, setting out four key projects: Frenchman's Bay Storm Water Management Plan; harbour entrance; waterfront trail and signage, and promotions, education and awareness.
- TRCA, in partnership with the City of Mississauga, City of Toronto and Region of Peel, presented an updated conceptual park plan for the Arsenal Lands in Mississauga. The plan integrates the Arsenal Lands with Marie Curtis Park to form a new 41-hectare regional waterfront park. Updates to the plan include designated park spaces for special events and group picnics, the protection and expansion of natural areas, a leash-free area for dog owners, improved trail connections, a children's play area and splash pad, and a community garden. The plan received community support and will move into the detailed design phase in 2006.

Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks

- The Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition completed their third successful year of implementing *Greening our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies of Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks*.
- The South Mimico Green Neighbourhood project was initiated with $25,000 in funding from the City of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Community Funding program.
- The Peel Children's Water Festival at Heart Lake Conservation Area attracted over 9,000 participants.
- TRCA and the City of Brampton initiated a partnership to enhance the Peel Village Golf Course (PVGC) and Etobicoke Creek. The first golf course in Canada to become certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, the PVGC boasts the only TRCA Regional Monitoring Network station in the watershed. The creek is actually cleaner

Eaton Hall Lake at Seneca King Campus.

after it leaves the course and the benefits are seen downstream in benthic and aquatic communities.

- Significant progress was made to complete major watershed studies: Etobicoke and Mimico creeks watersheds report card, Etobicoke Creek Fisheries Management Plan, Greater Toronto Airports Authority Living City project, Etobicoke Headwaters Subwatershed Study and Heart Lake Conservation Area Master Plan.
- Community outreach and restoration work at Snelgrove, South Mimico, Heart Lake and Malton Community Action Area helped to create approximately five hectares of wetland, restore 300 linear metres of riparian zone and plant 7,000 trees and shrubs.

A Canadian Heritage River

- TRCA, in partnership with the City of Toronto and many community groups, completed the first phase of a new urban agricultural farm in the Black Creek subwatershed. In addition to growing local produce when fully operational, seasonal students will gain valuable life skills, work experience and environmental education.
- The Oak Ridges Corridor Park Management Plan was completed. Located in the Town of Richmond Hill, the 428 hectares (1,057 acres) of Oak Ridges Moraine lands include sensitive wetland habitats and unique kettle lakes. The plan recommends a natural environment management philosophy, giving priority to protecting and enhancing the property as a wildlife corridor. Once opened to the public in 2006, a five-kilometre trail will guide visitors through the area.
- Eleven large-scale habitat regeneration projects were implemented in the City of Toronto, and York and Peel regions. Some of the projects included Eaton Hall Lake at Seneca King Campus, Lake Wilcox, Eglinton Flats, Claireville Conservation Area and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Priority Area 2. We also undertook many smaller scale projects such as community plantings and river awareness days. These projects were carried out with the assistance of community advisory groups — over 820 volunteers were active in the watershed in 2005 alone! Work included habitat restoration, environmental education and increased recreation opportunities.
- We celebrated 10 years of community based watershed management by the Humber Watershed Alliance and former Task Force. This group — municipalities and other government agencies, community groups, schools and local residents — are instrumental in our success to protect, restore and celebrate the Humber — a Canadian Heritage River.

- In 2005, TRCA worked closely with the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation to address the flood protection and naturalization of the mouth of the Don River, a priority project in waterfront revitalization. Here are some highlights:
  - TRCA received provincial approval for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project Class Environmental Assessment (EA). Great progress on the construction designs and approvals was made on two of the five key flood control components:
    1. The Canadian National Kingston Subdivision Bridge Extension was undertaken by TRCA staff with construction to begin in spring 2006.
    2. Ontario Realty Corporation undertook the Flood Protection Landform component on behalf of, and in participation with, TRCA staff. Construction will commence in 2006.

From top to bottom: Mouth of the Rouge River, Paddle the Don event, mouth of the Don River.

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- In addition to the flood protection components of the Class EA, TRCA developed construction designs and acquired approvals for a pedestrian underpass at the Bala Subdivision. This work will connect the future West Don Lands Community with the Don Watershed Trail.
- Through extensive consultation with many stakeholders, TRCA developed the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Don Mouth Naturalization and Port Lands Flood Protection Project EA. Approval of the ToR is anticipated in 2006 and will allow the EA to proceed.

- Chinook salmon were found in the upper reaches of the East Don River in Thornhill for the first time in over a century. The mitigation of barriers in the downstream reaches contributed to getting them this far upstream but there is still more work to do in making habitats suitable for reproduction and rearing of young fish.
- An update of *Forty Steps to a New Don* was initiated with the Don Watershed Regeneration Council.

Rouge **River** and Rouge **Park**

- Rouge Park received the Ontario Parks Association's 2005 *Protecting Tomorrow Today* award, recognizing the staff's role in ensuring that a large reservoir of biodiversity in the GTA was included in the Ontario *Greenbelt Plan*, and major contributions to enhancing natural environment goals in *Our Common Grounds*, the City of Toronto's new strategic plan for parks, forestry and recreation.
- The 2005 *Greenbelt Act* from the Province of Ontario means renewed protection for Rouge Park. Recognizing the significant public investment in the park over the past 10 years, the province gave special consideration to Rouge Park in Section 3.2.6 of its *Greenbelt Plan*.
- To celebrate Rouge Park's 10th Anniversary, the Rouge Park Alliance and friends conducted a visioning workshop to review the park's past achievements and plan future directions. Rouge Park is hiring additional natural heritage and communications staff to achieve these exciting goals and plans.
- Rouge Park worked with farmers to implement beneficial management practices in agricultural areas of the park which will improve water quality and flow patterns. This project was also of interest to water managers from different levels of government in China, who were initially attracted by the park's Ecological Criteria approach to protecting the biodiversity of river ecosystems.
- To help cultivate a public appreciation for the beauty and resiliency of native flowers and other plants, Rouge Park funded a partnership with Markham's Varley Art Gallery to present Field Studies: Picturing Flora in Canadian Art, an exhibition of selected paintings, drawings and photography spanning 200 years from diverse regions of Canada.
- Rouge Park's 3rd Annual Winter Bird Count recorded 54 species and over 5,000 individual birds, including the provincially endangered bald eagle, indicating the improving health of park lands and wildlife habitat.

Highland **Creek**

- The Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship project continued to build capacity in this urban watershed, engaging its diverse community in a variety of hands-on restoration activities. The program received funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation for another three years, and has established a partnership with the City of Toronto, The Scarborough Arts Council, Friends of Highland Creek and the Centennial Community and Recreation Association. The new program is focused on delivering community clean-up and planting events, as well as some innovative environmental art programs like the monarch project and mask program. In addition to linking the arts and environment, English as a Second Language teachers have worked with TRCA staff to develop and deliver hands-on environmental curriculum. More than 5,500 watershed residents have participated in events and over 1,800 have volunteered their time to enhance community health.

Mouth of the Duffins Creek.

- TRCA finalized the implementation of the Trans Canada Trail Interim Route which connects the community with our natural environment. From the Oak Ridges Moraine to the Lake Ontario waterfront, this 32-kilometre route traverses through Walker Woods, Glen Major Forest, Claremont Field Centre, Greenwood Conservation Area and Rotary Park, providing many opportunities for recreation.
- TRCA, our partners and member municipalities, continued to implement *A Watershed Plan for Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek* (2003). In 2005, a review of current activity in the watersheds revealed that 180 of the 202 recommendations in the plan were being addressed.
- Developed with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, TRCA released the *Fisheries Management Plan for Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek*. The plan charts a program to rehabilitate degraded fish habitat and return native stocks to the creeks.
- As part of the efforts to restore 17 hectares of coastal wetland, a carp barrier was constructed in the Duffins Creek Marsh. Carp uproot vegetation and reduce wetland productivity. Monitoring of the area shows exciting results – carp numbers have been reduced to zero and the amount of aquatic vegetation has increased substantially.

As scientific research on climate change becomes more prevalent, predictions of more frequent and intense storms are becoming a reality. Testimony to this was the August 19th storm which was centred between Highway 7 and Sheppard Avenue. Up to 120 millimetres of rain fell in just over an hour. The storm produced flooding of local streams; sewers could not handle the flow and street flooding was widespread. Many basements were also flooded due to sewer back-up. The flooding in Black Creek washed out a part of Finch Avenue, and damaged a local park and trail downstream. On Highland Creek, significant erosion of the stream bed and banks resulted in a sanitary sewer break killing fish downstream, and a bank collapsed in a residential neighbourhood leaving backyards hanging. On Wilket Creek in the Don River watershed, pedestrian bridges and trails were damaged. While property damage from this storm exceeded $265 million, the cost to municipalities for infrastructure repair or replacement has yet to be tallied, as work will continue into 2006 to address storm-related requirements.

For 50 years, TRCA has managed floodplains to prevent development in vulnerable areas, advised on bridge and culvert sizes for stream road crossings, managed water on a watershed basis, and ensured development and infrastructure was located away from banks and valleylands. It appears our work has paid off. While the August 19th storm was as intense as Hurricane Hazel, it fortunately did not have the same results – no lives lost.

Furthering our work in flood management, TRCA embarked on an ambitious plan to update all floodplain mapping within our jurisdiction. With 517 maps to update we are on the home stretch. In 2005, 137 maps were updated with a further 79 initiated in the Etobicoke and Mimico creeks watershed.

Top to bottom: Tommy Thompson Park, August 19th storm damage on Finch Avenue, fish monitoring by TRCA ecology staff.

Duffins and Carruthers Creeks

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Water MANAGEMENT

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Also, part of our floodplain management activities is inspecting and maintaining various flood control structures, including our dams and channels. In 2005, we implemented several of the recommendations for improved dam safety from the 2004 Dam Safety Study, including signage and booms around the dam gates at Claireville and G. Ross Lord dams.

Continuing in our efforts to slow climate change, we accomplished the following in 2005:

- Held a workshop with municipalities to address common climate change issues. A major component of the workshop focused on severe weather such as what we experienced during the August 19th storm.
- A consultant-led study was initiated to identify coastal features and processes around the Great Lakes that are likely to be affected by climate change, and to determine sustainable management practices that will reduce the vulnerability of these features and processes.
- TRCA helped to initiate a consultant-led process called Risk Management Guidelines for Adaptation Decision Making in Municipalities. This project involves leading workshops and producing a user-friendly, risk management guidebook to support municipal climate change adaptation decision making.

Watershed Monitoring and Reporting

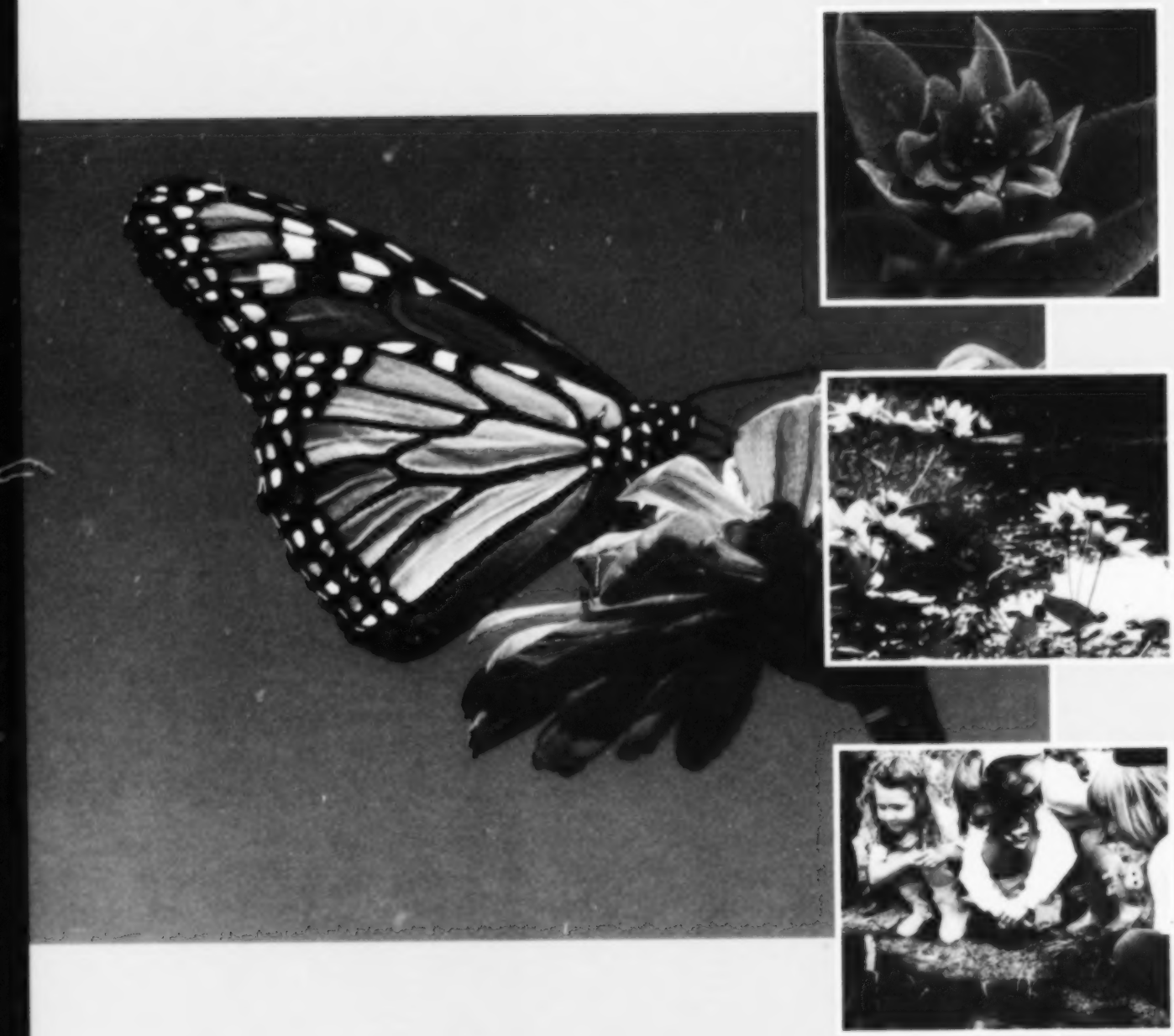
Monitoring our watersheds provides the data necessary to assess conditions and changes in environmental health, and better forecast and report on activities and outcomes.

As heavy rainfall can adversely affect our environment, it is critical that we monitor the impacts. TRCA used regional monitoring sites to evaluate the effects of the August 19th storm on the aquatic ecosystem. The report will be released in 2006. This information was also used to assist the Region of York in developing their State of the Environment report for 2005.

In addition, a part of our watershed monitoring is the West Nile virus program. We completed an assessment of natural wetlands and storm ponds for their ability to produce West Nile vector species of mosquitoes and found that generally these areas pose little risk to the spread of this disease.

The table below demonstrates the scope and number of sites in which we monitored in 2005.

NUMBER OF SITES (2005)	TYPE OF MONITORING
260 measurements at 185 locations	baseflow
19	stream gauges
4	water level recorders
70	fish
177	aquatic invertebrates (benthos)
22	ground water wells
52	temperature
36	water quality
48	West Nile virus
3,400 hectares	breeding birds, plants and amphibians
64 identified, located and surveyed	water users
54 sites	volunteer terrestrial monitoring program



Above: Monarch butterfly
Inset photos from top to bottom: Ladybug, wild flowers on the Humber River bank, school children learn about pond life.

2005 Highlights

- TRCA secured 232 hectares (574 acres) of environmentally important land through acquisitions and easements.
- TRCA released the Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2006–2010.
- The Province of Ontario released the final *Greenbelt Plan*.
- Construction of the Tommy Thompson Park Cell 1 capping project was completed, providing 11.5 hectares of terrestrial and aquatic habitat.

Inspiration for a greener, healthier Toronto region

biodiversity

Keffer Marsh Wetland creation project, before (inset) and after.

Acquiring land and associated land care is vital to the health of our watersheds. Greenlands clean our water and air, provide greater habitat diversity for wildlife and offer more space for recreation. In 2005, Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) secured 232 hectares (574 acres) of environmentally important land through acquisitions and easements, bringing the total amount of greenspace under TRCA ownership to 15,712 hectares (38,824 acres). Notable acquisitions in 2005 include:

- A significant donation of an ecologically sensitive property in the Lower Don River in the City of Toronto, the first property within an urban setting recognized by the Ecogift program.
- Granting of a 74-acre conservation easement on the Humber River in the City of Vaughan.
- Purchase of 124 acres of the Glen Major Forest, which is an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) in the Township of Uxbridge, an important source water area in the Duffins Creek.
- The purchase of six properties on the Lake Ontario shoreline to facilitate the creation of the Mimico Waterfront Linear Park.

We also released the *Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2006–2010.* This forward-looking document continues on the course of previous acquisition projects with new knowledge and refined direction. Implementation will begin in 2006.

To further our conservation efforts, TRCA develops and implements land management plans to ensure we use our various properties in the most sustainable way. *The Greenwood Conservation Area Management Plan* was completed in 2005 and we began developing the *Bruce's Mill Management Plan*. We also started implementation of trail improvements, and completed the construction of trail heads in the Altona Forest (City of Pickering) and in the Glenn Major Forest (Township of Uxbridge).

TRCA LAND OWNERSHIP BY GEOGRAPHIC FEATURE
10,675 acres within the Oak Ridges Moraine
1,232 acres within the Niagara Escarpment
2,371 acres along the Lake Ontario shoreline
24,148 acres within watershed valley corridors
38,824 acres total ownership

Through our inventory programs we discovered amazing biodiversity within some of our properties, demonstrating the value of our land acquisition and monitoring programs. Some highlights include:

- Salamander searches turned up a potential new site at Boyd Park for Jefferson's salamander, listed federally as threatened under the Species At Risk Act (SARA).
- A family of river otters, a species of conservation concern in our jurisdiction, was observed at the Secord property, along with the largest concentration of the regionally rare Canada warbler.

From top to bottom: Tommy Thompson Park Cell One wetland creation, Bruce's Mill wetland creation project, Greenwood Conservation Area.

Keffer Marsh Wetland creation project, before (inset) and after.

Conservation **Lands**

Acquiring land and associated land care is vital to the health of our watersheds. Greenlands clean our water and air, provide greater habitat diversity for wildlife and offer more space for recreation. In 2005, Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) secured 232 hectares (574 acres) of environmentally important land through acquisitions and easements, bringing the total amount of greenspace under TRCA ownership to 15,712 hectares (38,824 acres). Notable acquisitions in 2005 include:

- A significant donation of an ecologically sensitive property in the Lower Don River in the City of Toronto, the first property within an urban setting recognized by the Ecogift program.
- Granting of a 74-acre conservation easement on the Humber River in the City of Vaughan.
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10,075 acres within the Oak Ridges Moraine
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Terrestrial Natural **Heritage**

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From top to bottom: Tommy Thompson Park Cell One wetland creation, Bruce's Mill wetland creation project, Greenwood Conservation Area.

- Yellow-breasted chat (SARA species listed as endangered) was reported as a breeding species (the first breeding record in our jurisdiction) along the Seaton trail, in the southern reaches of the Duffins Creek watershed.
- And yet another SARA species – American ginseng – was reported from two new sites on TRCA properties, and reconfirmed for a third site.

TRCA monitors and manages our natural areas to ensure a healthy population of native species exists within our urban wildlife — a challenging task given the number of invasive species threatening our forests and rivers.

Taking over our urban forests are dog strangling vine, Norway maple, Japanese knotweed, European buckthorn, garlic mustard and Himalayan jewelweed, to name a few.

And in our many water courses, the number of invasive aquatic species continues to rise. TRCA works closely with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to monitor these species and here are some findings:

- The Rudd *(Scardinius erythrophthalmus)* caught in Lake Wilcox during routine monitoring in 2005 is an especially threatening invasive species as they can hybridize with native golden shiners *(Notemigonus crysoleucas)*, posing a threat to the native genetic pool.
- The OMNR undertook an eradication of the invasive round goby in Pefferlaw Creek to protect fish communities in Lake Simcoe. Goby have been found in the Lower Humber River, near Toronto Island and in Frenchman's Bay, and will pose a significant threat to native fish species if they successfully invade our watersheds.
- Native rainbow darters, who are sensitive to changes in habitat, have unfortunately been lost from the Don River over the last two decades, likely due to urbanization.

On the positive side, for the first time in 15 years, TRCA staff caught and released a 3.5-kilogram Lake Sturgeon *(Acipenser fulvescens)* in July of 2005. Found along the Pickering shoreline, this was a good news story, as historic over-harvesting, pollution and habitat loss of Lake Sturgeon has led to a drastic reduction in populations throughout the Great Lakes.

Also, Chinook salmon have been found traveling to the headwaters of the Don River due to barrier removal in the downstream reaches.

Large connected natural areas with a variety of native vegetation communities are essential for our wildlife to thrive. TRCA's regional biodiversity targets show that at least 30 per cent natural cover (forests and wetlands) is needed within our jurisdiction and numbers in 2005 showed that 16 per cent natural cover exists.

To help achieve our goals, we continued to revise the Draft Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy, incorporating the Greenbelt legislation and updated land use layers. This approach has been recognized as leading edge and we have shared our methodology with other conservation authorities to assist in developing a standardized approach to natural heritage strategies in southern Ontario.

Reforestation and Regeneration

In the days and weeks following the August 19th storm, top priority was given to the post-flood response by TRCA staff. Here are some highlights:

- Inspection of more than 40 priority sites including TRCA erosion control structures, private property and debris blockages.
- Debris removal at the mouth of Highland Creek and in Birkdale Ravine.
- Implementation of bank restoration at Birkdale Ravine for the City of Toronto.

Western Beaches Watercourse facility

- Clean up of Black Creek in Derrydowns Park to assist City of Toronto emergency efforts.
- Clean up and restoration of Colonel Danforth Park in the Highland Creek watershed.
- Survey of high water mark elevations at priority locations across TRCA's jurisdiction to support flood modeling.

In 2004, Toronto was awarded the 2006 Club Crew World Championship by the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF). Acting as an agent of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation, TRCA coordinated the environmental assessment and approvals process, and design of a new multi-sport watercourse facility located within the Western Beaches. Under the supervision of TRCA, construction of the watercourse facility was initiated in October 2005 including a new breakwater to accommodate a 600-metre long, 135-metre wide watercourse. Completion of the project is anticipated in March 2006.

The plans to develop the new TRCA Restoration Services Centre got underway in 2005. A consulting firm was retained to design and develop the centre which will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certified. Located near the Boyd office, this new facility will be home to TRCA's Indigenous Plant Propagation program and serve as a staging and implementation support centre for our restoration services initiatives. The construction of the new facility is anticipated to start in 2006.

The shoreline between Port Union Road and Highland Creek was transformed to provide safe public access to the Port Union waterfront. Construction of the new park continued with the completion of the headland beach system and the pedestrian node. Expected to open to the public in 2006, the park will also feature two kilometres of new waterfront trail and a bridge at the mouth of Highland Creek.

TRCA began implementation of four major soil placement projects located at Claireville Conservation Area, Kortright Centre for Conservation and the tablelands in the Rouge River corridor. Placement of clean soil and topsoil improves existing topographic features, and improves the health of wildlife habitat and wetlands. In addition, the earth fill structures provide the added benefit of sound and visual barriers to nearby urban environments. The net revenue, which exceeded expectations, will be used for future habitat enhancement projects on other TRCA properties.

Eglinton Flats essentially received an extreme ecological makeover in 2005, centering on a formerly bland, ecologically limited pond. After 360 metres of shoreline renaturalization, 150 square metres of pike spawning habitat, 1,900 square metres of riparian plantings and the construction of numerous fishing nodes, it's now an optimally functioning natural habitat.

Marking the reintroduction of native wildlife communities, construction of the Tommy Thompson Park Cell 1 capping project was completed in 2005. Cell 1 will provide functional habitat for a wide variety of wetland dependant fish and wildlife species. The 11.5 hectares of terrestrial and aquatic habitat includes a

From top to bottom: Common tern nest, August 19th flooding of Black Creek, monitoring at Highland Creek

Western Beaches Watercourse facility.

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The plan is to develop the new TRCA Regional Sports Centre and Watercourse Centre at the Port Union waterfront. A consulting firm was retained to design and construct the centre which will be environmentally friendly and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. Located near the Rouge River, the new facility will be home to TRCA's Watercourse Park Campus and provide a staging and maintenance station for the rescue and swiftwater training. The construction of the new facility is anticipated to start in 2006.

The Waterfront Regeneration Plan for Port Union Road and Highland Creek will also continue to provide safe public access to the Port Union waterfront. Construction of the new park continues with the completion of the headland beach system and the pedestrian node. Expected to open to the public in 2006, the park will also feature two kilometres of new waterfront trail and a bridge at the mouth of Highland Creek.

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Marking the reintroduction of native wildlife communities, construction of the new formerly Thompson Park Golf Course project was completed in 2005. The park will provide functional habitat for a wide variety of wet and upland plant species. The 11.5 hectares of forest and aquatic habitat will be a

From top to bottom: Common fern nest, August 19th flooding of Black Creek, monitoring at Highland Creek.

7.7-hectare coastal wetland, the largest wetland gain in the Toronto waterfront. Wildlife have responded remarkably well to the newly created habitats; a great variety of species have been seen colonizing the area. Within the wetland, a created tern nesting island was home to almost 300 new nesting pairs of common terns, and a created bank swallow habitat hosted a colony of bank swallows only two days after completion. With 2006 being the first complete growing season, we expect great things in the coming year.

In 2005, TRCA planted a total of 153,624 native trees, shrubs and aquatic herbaceous plants in our watersheds. An additional 19,632 plants were supplied to other Greater Toronto Area conservation authorities and partnering non-government organizations for planting in their respective watersheds.

Planning and Development

In 2005, the momentum of planning reform from the province continued with the release of the *Provincial Policy Statement* (PPS), *Growth Plan*, the final *Greenbelt Plan* and *Bill 51*, *Planning Act* and Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) reform. As development pressure continues in this new context, TRCA has continued to advance policy implementation and service delivery. In meeting demands of our role, we have established a new Environmental Assessment Review section to provide specialized assistance to our municipal partners. Successful resolution of several OMB hearings in both greenfields and urban redevelopment areas have advanced our natural heritage policies, with successful negotiations to add key valleyland and natural features into public ownership through planning approvals.

Planning applications and permits in 2005, as shown in the following table, are indicative of the stages of development in many parts of our watershed. Many major block plan development areas have moved through negotiations into permitting, subsequently resulting in lower numbers of new planning applications and increases in permits.

planning applications processed	880
development permit applications received and processed	505
development permit applications issued	461
solicitor/realty inquiries	1,500
property clearances	78
violations issued	61
development permit renewals	100
active OMB hearings/negotiations	12

Watershed policy development continued to advance with the production of a new guideline document, delivered through workshops with our municipal partners. The Generic Regulation process resulted in completion of the preliminary updated mapping and beginning of the municipal public consultation process toward implementation of updated Regulated Areas in 2006. The August 19th flood led to the need to manage several major approval processes to address damage from the storm. Other progress included development of a stewardship strategy for the Oak Ridges Moraine, which included a manual and new funding.

Rose produce from top to bottom: Tomatoes on the garden, grown here, and flower.

2005 Highlights

- Mayors' Megawatt Challenge expanded its reach across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- The Ontario Power Authority gave $100,000 toward the Sustainable Schools program.
- TRCA, in partnership with the Design Exchange, launched the first-ever Sustainable House Design Competition.
- We developed and published the first TRCA curriculum, *A Systems Thinking Curriculum for Learning in The Living City.*
- Over 500,000 visitors enjoyed biking, hiking, skiing, swimming, events and other exciting activities at TRCA parks.

Our environment comes alive

SUSTAINABLE communities

Aerial view of Toronto skyline as seen from Tommy Thompson Park

Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) believes that the future of our region depends on action taken now to change unsustainable practices, both individual and corporate. We need to find creative new ways of city building and of living in our rapidly growing urban region. Our vision for The Living City will create a healthy region we can be proud of and an important legacy in which our great grandchildren can inherit. In 2005, we made significant strides with our living city programs helping to achieve a cleaner, greener, healthier place to live.

- Through the Sustainable Technologies Evaluation program (STEP) we demonstrated the benefit of green roofs in managing storm water quantity and quality, and effectively promoted biodiversity.
- Also through STEP, we completed the first year of monitoring a permeable pavement and bioswale project in partnership with Seneca College. For the rain events sampled, there was no runoff from the pavement (with the exception of significant rainfall), suggesting that it is an appropriate technique, even on lower permeability soils.
- Monitoring of a storm water pond for construction site runoff in Markham showed that ponds designed to current standards do not provide adequate levels of protection to the stream, meaning that pond design guidelines should be revised.
- Environment Canada agreed to provide $25,000 to the Greening Retail program in support of Phase I research on environmental best practice in the retail sector.
- Mayors' Megawatt Challenge expanded its reach across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The municipalities of Kitchener, Waterloo, St. Catharines and Guelph were new participants in 2005.
- The Ontario Power Authority gave $100,000 toward the Sustainable Schools program. The program will work with 10 school boards to improve the energy efficiency of their new and recently built schools.
- We completed the first year of the Greening Health Care program with great success. The participating hospitals rated their satisfaction with the program more than four out of five.
- We completed the first year of a new partnership with PowerStream Inc. to provide Conservation and Demand Management programming as required by the Ontario Energy Board. The programs are designed to educate sector leaders and provide incentives for businesses and homeowners to reduce their demand for grid-based energy.
- Workshops to implement the first example of a sustainable community in Vaughan were completed. Community leaders including City of Vaughan, PowerStream Inc., Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Castle Point Developments, Starlane Homes and Royal Pine Homes are working together to build a 400-home demonstration community across from the Kortright Centre for Conservation (Vaughan, Block 39).
- In October 2005, the Green Building Alliance (TRCA, Sustainable Buildings Canada, Canadian Urban Institute and Canada Green Building Council) hosted the first annual

From top to bottom: Miller Creek (Duffins), butterfly release – Frenchman's Bay, tour of GreenWorks building

Aerial view of Toronto skyline as seen from Tommy Thompson Park

The Living **City**

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Toronto Regional Green Building Festival at the National Trade Centre which drew a crowd of over 600 people.

- TRCA, in partnership with the Design Exchange, launched the first-ever Sustainable House Design Competition. Seventeen teams of architects, engineers and designers from across Canada submitted designs for this ultimate "green" home, suitable for a typical subdivision. The winning team will help build the house at The Living City Campus, to be used for leadership training and monitoring of technology.
- We released *Green Building Strategies for High Rise Residential Development*. This concise booklet enables high-rise developers to understand green building strategies, a first step toward sustainable communities.
- We successfully established the new Vaughan Manufacturers Sustainability program in partnership with the City of Vaughan, Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement and Environment Canada.

Watershed Stewardship

Environmental stewards care for the land and water resources through their positive environmental actions, at work, at play and at home. Through more than 20 stewardship programs, TRCA and our partners provided the tools and expertise to more than 20,000 urban and rural residents across our jurisdiction.

In 2005, we introduced new programs like our Environmental Experience program, allowing new Canadians to taste the Sugar Maple's sweetness and catch and release fish at our conservation areas. The Malton Environmental Stewardship program showcased a new youth movement to clean up, plant and organize stewardship and outreach events, in their own community. The Healthy Yards program successfully launched the Organic Lawn Care workshop and kit initiative, giving homeowners the incentive to adopt sustainable landscaping practices. Our Waterways workshop for landowners in the Rouge River watershed allowed residents to fine-tune their knowledge about rural living, creating a healthier environment for themselves and local wildlife. We received continued financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and EcoAction Community Fund to initiate a community stewardship program at the Claireville Conservation Area, continue the momentum of the Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship program and create Pickering Healthy Communities.

As part of our commitment to engage a diverse community of stewards, we hosted the first TRCA citizenship ceremony at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. We also witnessed the flight of a sandhill crane (a rare occurrence) at the annual Tommy Thompson Park (TTP) Bring Back the Birds family nature event. We tied flies with eager 4H Club members who learned the joys of fly fishing in Centreville Creek. We initiated a landowner contact program across the Oak Ridges Moraine involving many stakeholders within our jurisdiction and beyond. We shared waterfront history with our neighbours from Chicago at our annual Stewardship Forum. Farmers and Peel Region were part of a pilot project to create a joint Rural Clean Water program in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation and local agricultural organizations. Ajax youth married art and the environment in the Duffins Creek watershed, using garbage they collected from waterways as part of the first annual Enviromonsters art competition. And, in the Highland Creek community, students used the art of papier-mâche masks, symbolizing watershed elements through their creations.

Winged Migration program at Tommy Thompson Park

TRCA education is a group of centres and programs committed to excellence in sustainable education, including the **Kortright Centre for Conservation, Black Creek Pioneer Village, education field centres – Albion Hills, Claremont and Lake St. George – Watershed on Wheels, Investigating The Living City Spaces, community volunteer education and seasonal park programs.** For the past 50 years, our outstanding work in environmental education has prepared us to look ahead as we meet the challenge of the next 50 years with an absolute imperative to move toward the vision of The Living City.

As educators, we have grown accustomed to making the distinction between natural and urban space, but we need to think of cities as living systems. To do this, we as teachers and learners of every age, need to deeply understand the relational world in the systems around us. By providing these leadership and learning opportunities we will be effective in bringing about change for a sustainable future.

In 2005, with the generous support of our new and established partners in education, we moved sustainability education forward through many achievements:

- Collectively, our enriching overnight, day and outreach education programs reached over 180,000 participants.
- We developed and published the first TRCA curriculum, *A Systems Thinking Curriculum for Learning in The Living City*, which provides the context and toolkit for re-orienting TRCA environmental education toward sustainability education.
- We expanded educational opportunities through new programs and funding partners including:
  - The introduction of the exciting Winged Migration program at TTP, as generously supported by a new corporate sponsor, The Imperial Oil Foundation.
  - The 10th anniversary of the Husky/Earth Rangers Environmental Weeks program which provides a $98,000 per year student sponsorship.
  - The 20-year renewal of the TRCA, Toronto Catholic and York Region district school boards partnership at the Lake St. George Field Centre.
  - The opening of the new Hands on History Centre at Black Creek Pioneer Village, engaging 3,500 students.
  - The introduction of a joint high school program at the Kortright Centre for Conservation and Earth Rangers that explores sustainability through wise personal choices.
- We built relationships and recognition in sustainability education through:
  - The Toronto Geoscape project which received two planning awards for excellence in education and communication.
  - Our partnership in the Ontario EcoSchools program which combines what kids learn with how schools are operated.
  - Volunteer opportunities in education with the support of TRCA's Environmental Volunteer Network.

The ongoing process of teaching and learning helps us create an environmental ethic that knows and values The Living City.

From top to bottom: Green Energy Home Show (Kortright Centre for Conservation), Metis Festival (Black Creek Pioneer Village), swimming at Albion Hills Conservation Area

Winged Migration program at Tommy Thompson Park.

Education

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Archaeology

TRCA had a productive year as the archaeology resource management staff worked concurrently on 27 field projects, seven heritage studies and inventory updates. Program highlights in 2005 included the 29th Boyd Archaeological Field School that produced 30 successful graduates, a large scale archaeological survey in Peel Region, as well as two large-scale excavations at the Kortright Centre for Conservation and at Highland Creek in Colonel Danforth Park.

Parks and Culture

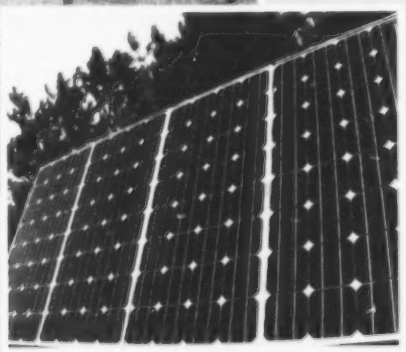
With the health benefits associated with being in the great outdoors, it is no wonder that so many people enjoyed TRCA's parks and our other facilities. In 2005, 511,646 visitors enjoyed biking, hiking, skiing, swimming, events and other exciting activities such as the Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival and Caledon Canada Day.

At Black Creek Pioneer Village, we created new events in partnership with local community groups such as the Centre for Spanish-Speaking People for whom we hosted a holiday event, the South Asian Community with whom we worked to launch a new multicultural event called Multifest, and the Métis Arts Collective — our partner for the Métis Arts Festival.

A new Event Pavilion at Black Creek Pioneer Village opened on July 24, 2005. The first "official" event hosted at the pavilion was the Métis Arts Festival. The pavilion, which was an investment just under $1.4 million, is an excellent venue for performances, concerts and special events, and corporate and private functions.

The Kortright Centre for Conservation became Bullfrogpowered. TRCA formed a partnership with Bullfrog Power to encourage the development of renewable power in Ontario. This provides exposure to our customers that Ontarians can start directing their electricity dollars to power produced exclusively from pollution-free wind and low-impact hydro generators. Approximately 25,000 kWh was purchased from September to December 2005 and we anticipate that number to grow to 500,000 kWh in 2006.

Building on the success of its renewable energy workshops, the Kortright Centre for Conservation, in partnership with PowerStream Inc., introduced its enhanced renewable energy and energy efficient programs. These new programs included new energy efficiency seminars, expanded grid connected workshops for solar and wind, and The Green Energy Home Show which celebrated the positive strides in sustainable technology, practices and entrepreneurship. These programs will provide a broader spectrum of opportunities for homeowners to reduce their personal impacts on the environment.



Inset photos from top to bottom: Mark Cullen, Canada's favourite gardener, TRCA begins August 19th storm repair on Finch Avenue, solar panels.

2005 Highlights

- The Kortright Centre for Conservation moved to 100 per cent green energy.
- More than 1,900 diverse TRCA volunteers contributed 160,000 hours of their time to many projects.
- Gardening expert Mark Cullen joined TRCA as a spokesperson for The Living City.
- The Conservation Foundation created a successful holiday campaign for gifts of clean air and clean water.

Responding to nature

BUSINESS excellence

Granger Greenway Wetland Creation project, before (inset) and after.

2005 was a remarkable year for large scale commitments from all levels of government to create a more sustainable living city including the announcement of the Greenbelt legislation by the Province of Ontario.

One of our long-time partners, the Region of York, announced its sustainability plan and the intent to contribute $250,000 in 2006 toward The Living City Campus. We delved into new territory with the agreement to run a golf course in partnership with Mattamy homes, the previous owners of the Bathurst Glen Golf Course and the Province of Ontario, the new owners. By gaining expertise in Audubon certification we will help raise the bar on sustainable management of golf courses — knowledge we can translate to other courses in the Toronto region.

Our new corporate structure solidified our strategy to strengthen our core competencies in water management and watershed planning, as well as expand our commitment to development and practical application of state-of-the-art science in new development, rehabilitation of habitats and brownfield restoration. Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA) is an organization of the 21st century, built to pursue the many challenges we will face.

Along with our talented staff, we've made significant investment in the productivity tools necessary to meet our mandate in a timely and cost-effective way, spending almost $1.4 million in new computer software and hardware.

Lastly, we could not have had such a great year without the encouragement of our partners, especially the municipalities who, in spite of difficult times, have not waivered from their commitment to a better environment. We had a total budget of $84 million in operating and capital for the first time in our history. In a year where nature spoke back, we listened and acted to improve our organization's effectiveness to build, and in some cases rebuild, the shorelines and waterways, and to secure the beautiful natural landscapes of the Toronto region for many years to come.

The Sustainability Management System (SMS) enables us to track indicators of our operational sustainability and report to our stakeholders. The SMS measures TRCA's progress toward environmental, social and economic sustainability.

In many ways, 2005 was a significant year in the evolution of a more sustainable TRCA. A number of groundbreaking efforts with implications for our future leadership in this area saw their start:

- The Kortright Centre for Conservation moved to 100 per cent green energy and the plans started for TRCA's Restoration Services Centre which will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certified.
- TRCA educational facilities (field centres, the Kortright Centre for Conservation and Black Creek Pioneer Village) took their first step to becoming certified EcoSchools.

From top to bottom: Porous Pavement Project (Seneca King Campus), Wincott Festival, Rouge Park Awards.

Granger Greenway Wetland Creation project, before (inset) and after.

Corporate **Services**

Sustainability **Management System**

From top to bottom: Porous Pavement Project (Seneca King Campus), Wincott Festival, Rouge Park Awards.

- We launched a corporate *Energy Management Plan* to address one of the biggest contributors to our environmental footprint – energy and water use at our buildings and facilities. This plan will enable us to gather, assess and report on detailed energy usage information at our facilities, then use this data to target problem areas, and inform energy saving retrofits and operational changes.
- We initiated, with the help of Smart Commute of North Toronto, development and design for a TRCA Sustainability Station, to be displayed at all TRCA staff locations. Here, staff members will be able to find out such things as how to access transit information, print double-sided or schedule and conduct successful telephone meetings.

Other highlights from 2005 include:

- The completion of a draft list of social indicators to add to the SMS.
- We implemented new policies on purchases including:
  - Using Audubon or other green-certified hotels when away on TRCA business.
  - Requiring outside print jobs to solicit bids from at least one EcoLogo green-certified printing company.
- Continued work on upgrading/ decommissioning underground oil tanks.
- We completed the TRCA procurement policy, with greater focus on green/sustainable procurement.
- We continued to retrofit above-ground fuel stations.
- Composters were installed at our Downsview Office (including vermi composter).

Volunteerism and **Diversity**

The Environmental Volunteer Network (EVN), a 38-member group of environmental organizations led by TRCA, is working to enhance volunteerism in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) through network building and increasing diversity management competence.

Last year, more than 1,900 diverse TRCA volunteers contributed 160,000 hours of their time — the equivalent of nearly $3 million worth of human power. EVN volunteers also contributed close to 2,000 hours — a $35,000 contribution to our partner and member organizations.

The EVN once again received a national recognition award by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation on October 22nd, at the foundation's symposium on Effecting Lasting Systemic Change. EVN was given an honourable mention for connecting new Canadians to volunteer, paid and educational opportunities in the environmental field.

TRCA staff have now mentored 31 internationally trained environmental professionals to guide them in their efforts to find professional work in the environmental field in our region.

Recognition Awards Program

Adopted in 1976, the Recognition Awards program pays tribute to those who have made a significant contribution to the work of TRCA and includes Honour Roll Awards and Service Recognition Awards.

The Honour Roll Awards were presented on June 21, 2005, at a special Supporter Recognition Evening held at Black Creek Pioneer Village. Recipients included Paul Bedford, retired chief planner, City of Toronto; Dick Hunter, retired general manager, Conservation Ontario, and the Pickering Waterfront Coordinating Committee. Our volunteers were also recognized for their tremendous support.

The Service Recognition Awards are based on years of service — three, six and 10 years for volunteers and members, including TRCA's watershed committees; and 10, 15 and 25 years for staff.

Also on June 21st, silver logo pins for three years of service were presented to Sandra Moravek and Leo Snowbell, and a lifetime pass for six years of service was presented to Jacquie Somerville — all Black Creek Pioneer Village volunteers.

Recognition/Employee Suggestion Award Sub-Committee

Chair: Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Members: David Barrow, Maja Prentice and Dick O'Brien.

Mark Cullen joined TRCA as a spokesperson for The Living City, helping us deliver our important conservation messages and helping community members understand how to create a healthy, organic lawn and garden. Mr. Cullen was a key participant at many of our events, and we received significant media exposure through his gardening show on News Talk 1010 CFRB and other media outlets.

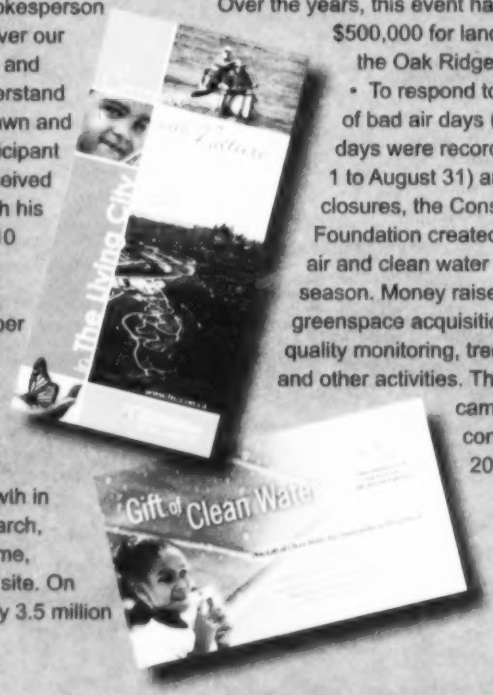
Media coverage increased by 40 per cent over 2004. Important issues and events received prominent coverage in local and national print and electronic media outlets.

We've seen some impressive growth in traffic to our website as well. In March, we hit a milestone — for the first time, over 100,000 visitors came to our site. On average, we receive approximately 3.5 million hits a month.

The Living City section on the website received a makeover, with new images, a showcase section and a poll. This new design and functionality makes it easier for users to navigate, and provides visitors with more information on our programs.

We launched our new brochure and jurisdiction map with over 4,000 copies in circulation to watershed residents, businesses and partners.

- Nearly 800 people enjoyed the 12th Annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner. Over the years, this event has raised over $500,000 for land acquisition on the Oak Ridges Moraine.
- To respond to the number of bad air days (44 smog days were recorded from June 1 to August 31) and beach closures, the Conservation Foundation created gifts of clean air and clean water for the holiday season. Money raised went toward greenspace acquisition, water quality monitoring, tree planting and other activities. This successful campaign will continue into 2006.



From top to bottom: Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner, Honour Roll recipient Dick Hunter, garden naturalization.

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Recognition/Employee Suggestion Award Sub-Committee
Chair: Carri Lynn O'Connor
Members: David Barrow, Mara Prentice and Dick O'Brien

Marketing and **Communications**

Mark Cullen joined TRCA as a spokesperson for The Living City, helping to deliver our important conservation messages and helping community members understand how to create a healthy, organic lawn and garden. Mr. Cullen was a key participant at many of our events, and we received significant media exposure through his gardening show on Rogers Fan 1010 CFRB and other media outlets.

Media coverage increased by 47 per cent over 2004. Important issues and events received proactive coverage in local and regional print and electronic media outlets.

We've seen some impressive growth in traffic to our website as well. In March, we hit a milestone — for the first time, over 100,000 visitors came to our site. On average, we receive approximately 3.5 million hits a month.

The Living City section on the website received a makeover, with new images, a showcase section and a poll. This new design and functionality makes it easier for users to navigate, and provides visitors with more information on our programs.

We launched our new brochure and jurisdiction map with over 4,000 copies in circulation to watershed residents, businesses and partners.

Conservation **Foundation**

- Nearly 600 people enjoyed the 12th Annual Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner. Over the years, this event has raised over $500,000 for land acquisition on the Oak Ridges Moraine.
- To respond to the number of bad air days (44 smog days were recorded from June 1 to August 31) and beach closures, the Conservation Foundation created gifts of clean air and clean water for the holiday season. Money raised went toward greenspace acquisition, water quality monitoring, tree planting and other activities. The successful campaign will continue into 2006.

From top to bottom: Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner, Honour Roll recipient Dick Hunter, garden naturalization.

- The Herons without Borders mailing from the Conservation Foundation was a great success. We doubled the number of monthly donors and increased staff contributions.
- A broad number of partners from the provincial and federal government, and private businesses donated close to $300,000 toward the Archetype for The Living City: Sustainable House Competition.
- The Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation donated more than $280,000 to implement wetland, woodland and riparian habitat projects, as well as a landowner contact program in two conservation priority areas (Duffins Creek and Humber River watersheds).

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2005, TRCA approved the largest budget in its history, $31.7 million for operating expenditures and $53 million for capital projects. The capital budget was driven by TRCA's participation in the work of the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation which accounted for 48 per cent of proposed spending. TRCA anticipates completing almost $80 million in work for the waterfront organization over five years.

In terms of the operating budget, TRCA's municipal funding partners continued to provide the core support for TRCA program expenditures, accounting for about one-third of revenues. TRCA's non-municipal operating revenues continued to improve, growing at almost 22 per cent over 2004. Healthy revenue growth in conservation parks, Black Creek Pioneer Village and education field centres, as well as continued growth in development services fees and additional funding for environmental assessment work were all important factors. The Province of Ontario demonstrated its commitment with continued funding for the source water protection program, an important endeavour being led by conservation authorities.

As the year ended, total expenditures were significantly less than budgeted. Delays were experienced in capital projects, particularly those on the waterfront and the Lower Don River involving complicated intergovernmental arrangements; various erosion projects, the Restoration Services Centre and The Living City Centre projects contributed to this delay. Revenues which would have been matched to expenditures were similarly reduced. The newly established community transformation partnership took longer to implement and unmet targets in fundraising, along with other program variances, contributed to net expenditures exceeding budget.

At year end, expenditures from all sources exceeded revenues, leaving a modest deficit of $153,077. This is added to the cumulative deficit which will now stand at $589,750. TRCA reserves, which had improved significantly in 2004, were drawn down marginally and now stand at $3.23 million.

Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton LLP
Chartered Accountants
Management Consultants1

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Auditors' Report

To the Members of the
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

The accompanying summarized statements of financial position and financial activities and deficit are derived from the complete financial statements of the **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority** as at December 31, 2005 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation dated March 20, 2006. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of the Authority's management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the Authority's financial position and results of financial activities and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Grant Thornton LLP

Markham, Canada
March 20, 2006

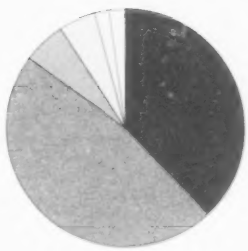
Grant Thornton LLP
Chartered Accountants

BROAD PROGRAM AREAS

Expenditures

Conservation Land Management	40%
Watershed Health	30%
Conservation and Education Programs	22%
Corporate Services and Other	8%

Revenue



Municipal Funding	38%
Fees, Sales, Rentals and Contract Services	47%
All Other Sources	6%
Provincial Funding	5%
Conservation Foundation	2%
Federal Funding	2%

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Summarized Statement of Financial Activities and Deficit

Year Ended December 31

	2005 Budget	2005 Actual	2004 Actual
Expenditures			
Watershed management and health monitoring	$ 12,820,000	$ **8,593,258**	$ 7,082,978
Environmental advisory services	3,868,000	**3,711,406**	2,836,953
Watershed stewardship	9,356,200	**6,996,044**	6,464,585
Conservation land management, development and acquisition	38,447,400	**25,752,425**	11,161,540
Conservation and education programming	15,220,600	**13,821,526**	12,884,394
Corporate services	4,932,200	**4,833,133**	4,307,348
Vehicle and equipment, net of usage charged	66,100	**134,295**	(61,133)
	84,710,500	**63,842,087**	44,676,665
Revenue			
Municipal			
Levies	27,478,800	**21,771,302**	20,475,804
Other	5,658,200	**2,246,443**	397,280
Government grants			
MNR transfer payments	845,800	**845,753**	845,753
Provincial - other	3,932,100	**2,252,108**	1,596,211
Federal	2,108,700	**1,110,042**	1,372,434
Authority-generated			
User fees, sales and admissions	11,115,700	**10,964,378**	10,611,086
Contract services	374,600	**641,027**	946,146
Interest income	360,000	**396,122**	356,051
Proceeds from sale of properties	1,221,400	**1,030,523**	122,850
The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto	1,137,300	**1,454,127**	1,621,604
Donations and fundraising	1,305,400	**1,433,404**	1,121,284
Facility and property rentals	2,288,400	**2,256,811**	2,139,246
Canada Post Corporation agreement	95,000	**36,164**	28,116
Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation	24,568,000	**15,707,086**	3,529,545
Sales and property tax refunds	85,000	**220,187**	261,875
Sundry	1,439,400	**1,068,685**	544,926
	84,013,800	**63,434,162**	45,970,211
Excess of expenditures over revenue	(696,700)	**(407,925)**	1,293,546
Appropriations from (to) reserves	896,700	**254,848**	(1,254,824)
	200,000	**(153,077)**	38,722
Deficit, beginning of year	(436,673)	**(436,673)**	(475,395)
Deficit, end of year	$ (236,673)	$ **(589,750)**	$ (436,673)

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Summarized Statement of Financial Position

December 31	2005	2004
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 5,930,969	$ 7,892,709
Marketable securities	3,698,374	4,692,994
Receivables	9,855,518	5,250,755
Inventory	533,232	583,306
Prepaids	163,543	355,093
	$ 20,181,636	$ 18,774,857
Liabilities		
Payables and accruals	$ 6,962,306	$ 4,752,505
Deferred revenue		
Municipal levies	5,399,556	6,328,056
Capital, special projects and other	5,182,857	4,649,454
Vacation pay and sick leave entitlements	1,561,781	1,334,214
	19,106,500	17,064,229
Fund Balances		
Reserves	3,226,667	3,481,515
Deficit	(589,750)	(436,673)
	2,636,917	3,044,842
Amounts to be funded in future years	(1,561,781)	(1,334,214)
	1,075,136	1,710,268
	$ 20,181,636	$ 18,774,857

On behalf of the Authority

Dick O'Brien, Chair

Brian Denney, Secretary-Treasurer

THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES AND MEMBERS 2005

TOWN OF MONO AND TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO

G. Mason

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

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G. L. O'Connor *
D. Ryan *

CITY OF TORONTO

M. Augimeri
B. Balkissoon *
G. Cowbourne
G. De Baeremaeker
R. Ford *
P. Gough
D. Gurin
S. Hall *
C. Jenkins (Jan. 1/05 - June 24/05)
N. Kelly (June 24/05 - Dec. 31/05)
P. Milczyn
D. O'Brien (Chair) *
S. Petrie
A. Schulz
M. Thompson

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

D. Barrow *
M. Di Biase *
B. Fisch
B. O'Donnell
L. Pabst

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL

F. Dale *
E. Moore
M. Prentice
J. Sprovieri
N. Stewart

* Executive Committee members

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- DIRECTOR, RESTORATION SERVICES — N. Saccone
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- DIRECTOR, ECOLOGY — D. Martin-Downs

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Toronto and Region Conservation

DUFFERIN

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 705-424-1479

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority 905-895-1281

Mono

Adjala-Tosorontio

SIMCOE

Mono Mills

Palgrave

Newmarket

O A K R I D G E S M O R A I N E

Caledon East

Aurora

King

Nobleton

King City

Oak Ridges

Whitchurch-Stouffville

Goodwood

Uxbridge

Kawartha Conservation 705-328-2271

Bolton

Sandhill

Humber River Watershed

Richmond Hill

Stouffville

DURHAM

Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority 905-579-0411

Caledon

PEEL

Kleinburg

Maple

Claremont

Duffins Creek Watershed

Rouge River Watershed

Unionville

Markham

Pickering

Greenwood

Carruthers Creek Watershed

Vaughan

YORK

Woodbridge

Don River Watershed

Thornhill

Petticoat Creek Watershed

Mimico Creek Watershed

Bramalea

TRCA Head Office

Highland Creek Watershed

Whitby

Brampton

TORONTO

Ajax

Malton

Credit Valley Conservation 905-670-1615

Etobicoke Creek Watershed

Frenchman's Bay

Ajax Waterfront

Port Union

Guild Inn

East Point

Conservation Halton 905-336-1158

Sylvan Park

Cudia Park

Bluffers Park

Milton

HALTON

Mississauga

Humber Bay

Mimico Linear Park

Humber Bay Park

Ashbridge's Bay Park

Marie Curtis Park

Arsenal Lands

Colonel Samuel Smith Park

Tommy Thompson Pk

LAKE ONTARIO

Conservation for The Living City

Greenbelt

Legend

- Local Municipal Boundary
- Regional Municipal Boundary
- River / Stream
- Watershed Boundary
- Oak Ridges Moraine
- Designated Greenspace *
- TRCA Property
- TRCA Conservation Areas, Waterfront Parks and Field Centres
- Rouge Park
- Greenbelt Plan Boundary
- Niagara Escarpment Planning Area
- Rural Areas (TRCA Jurisdiction)
- Urban Areas - Existing and Approved (TRCA Jurisdiction)
- Rural Areas
- Urban Areas

Notes:

* Major tracts of publically owned land designated as future greenspace

www.trca.on.ca

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